

DID LOUIS USE PAINT?

ZOLA'S CHARGE THAT NAPOLEON PAINTED HIS FACE.

The Novelist Says the Emperor Made Use of Rouge at the Battle of Sedan—The Statement Contradicted by Eminent Authority—Did He Turn Green?

On the declaration of war against Prussia, both MM. de Cassagnac and Mitchell threw down their pens for the sword, and enrolled themselves as volunteers in the First zouaves. Both were personally known to the Emperor Napoleon III, who saw them almost every day, and now these two distinguished authorities have come forward to traverse the inference suggested by M. Emile Zola in "La Débâcle" that Napoleon III at Sedan had resorted to a cosmetic to impart unnatural rosininess to his complexion. M. Zola describes the emperor as having glowing cheeks, and adds, "Assuredly he had his face painted." M. de Cassagnac has emphatically stated that during his close association with Napoleon before the battle he never noticed a trace of paint on the imperial countenance, and in this denial he is corroborated by M. Robert Mitchell, who declares his certainty that the then ruler of the French people used no pigment whatsoever during the operations leading to the capitulation of Sedan.

The question, although intrinsically unimportant, is very curious, inasmuch as this is not the first time that the change of complexion of the son of Queen Hortense has been made a matter of public discussion. The anonymous writer of that most entertaining melody, "The Englishman in Paris," who first met Prince Louis Napoleon at the Hotel du Rhin, Paris, in 1848, has plenty to say about the personal appearance of the then pretender to the French throne. He describes his heavy brown mustache, his thin lank hair, his aquiline nose and grayish blue eyes and the general impression which the features of the prince gave him of being a habitual opium eater; and opium eaters are assuredly not as a rule persons of a ruddy tint. Provokingly enough the Englishman has nothing to say touching the prince's complexion at this stage of his career.

The late Mr. Kinglake has, on the other hand, a great deal to state touching the facial hue of the third Napoleon. In his prologue to the history of the Crimean war the writer describes the emperor as apt, on days of great peril, to turn facially green, and on this circumstance he founded the opinion that the emperor, either at the period of the coup d'état or on subsequent occasions as momentous, did not so far as could be judged from his appearance, suggest the conclusion that he was a man of exceptional courage. It is said, indeed, that when Napoleon III read the first volume of Mr. Kinglake's history he observed with a smile to one of his confidants, "This," pointing to the sea-green passage, "must have been written by a woman," and anti-English French journalists of the period did not scruple to insinuate that Mr. Kinglake's strictures on the personal appearance of the emperor were due to the inspiration of an Egeria well known in Parisian society, who hated the third emperor as bitterly as the first one had been detected by Mme. de Staël.

The authority, however, of the historian of the Crimean war was naturally so highly valued in England that the story of the emperor turning green on days of battle or revolution obtained universal credence, and to some extent it was used to bolster up the absurd accusation of personal cowardice which the ultra republicans constantly brought against their imperial foe. It remained for an illustrious English surgeon, not long deceased, to point out the indubitable verity that a man has no command over his blood, although by the exercise of his will he has every command over his muscles. Meanwhile it must be frankly admitted that in circumstances of emergency the features of Napoleon III did assume a peculiar hue.

The color was certainly not ruddy, nor was it swarthy or sallow; it was a curious leaden gray. But that such a leaden gray had nothing to do with the emperor's capacity for incurring danger without wavering there is no record first the observation of the distinguished English medical man to whom allusion has been made, and next to the personal testimony—not by any means exclusively that of MM. de Cassagnac and Mitchell—of people who had constantly been close to the emperor, and who had observed his physical mien from the early stages of his career to his mournful and inglorious close. He was undoubtedly as brave as his uncle, the Great Napoleon, who, by the way, was frequently accused in the English press of being an abject coward.

The harum scarum adventure of Strasbourg and the midnight escape at Bonlogne showed this pointlessness was not among his shortcomings, and although Mr. Kinglake would have us believe Napoleon III turned green at Solferino and Magenta, there is plenty of evidence from eye witnesses who were near to the emperor throughout those momentous battles to show that whatever tint the face of the emperor took, it was certainly not a verdant one. As to Sedan there is the further testimony of Princess Mathilde, who declares that she never told any one that the emperor was in the habit of using cosmetics. Since the appearance of M. Zola's statement she has questioned persons who were at the battle and they all assert that "the legend is absolutely false." The princess adds, "I cannot believe that, even with a good intention, he could have employed that actor's trick under such grave circumstances."—London Telegraph.

In Greece the priests sell sick charms, consisting of pieces of paper, on which is written the name of the disease from which the person is suffering, and these are nailed to the door of the chamber.

THE ABUSE OF HYPNOTISM.

Gadsh and Christian Who Make Use of It to Gull the Public.

While the benefits from hypnotism have been many and great, the evils have been many and great. Its deeplike state is a normal sleep, bringing health and strength to the slumberer, but a morbid condition bordering upon disease. It irritates the entire nervous organization and temporarily if not organically weakens the system. This drawback is serious enough.

Darker and more terrible effects lie in the suppression of the object's will for the time being, and the substitution thereof of the operator's. In this regard it opens avenues to crime and criminality such as has never been equaled heretofore. Already so many discreditable actions, not to use a stronger word, have been committed in Europe by means of hypnotism that in Italy, Austria-Hungary, parts of Switzerland, Copenhagen and other municipalities laws have been enacted prohibiting its public practice by any except physicians. So, on the other hand, the police, without any statute on the subject, have treated traveling mesmerists as disorderly characters. Thus Donato was expelled from Italy, and Hansen, another hypnotist, from Austria, was notified never to return under penalty of arrest, fine and imprisonment.

This Donato (whose real name, by the way, is Dhont) hypnotized an Italian artillery officer, who immediately became half crazy. From time to time he would go into somnambulism at the sight of a bright object. He would follow carriage lamps, and unless prevented would walk toward locomotive or steamer lights.

An architectural student was mesmerized by staring at his compasses, after which it was impossible for him to draw without going to sleep.

A young girl of Milan, of beauty and character, was hypnotized and impressed with the notion that she was married to a man she had never seen but once, and then in the darkness. She went crazy and died in a hospital.

Another young girl (of Paris, this time) was put under a similar spell and was ruined. She finally entered the Salpêtrière hospital, where, after a long and painful remedy, what was left of her former self was pronounced cured.

In New York a hypnotized person was made to believe that he had taken slow poison. He fell sick and wasted away to a shadow. Not until the attending physician discovered the true nature of the hallucination and rehypnotized the subject was there any symptom of convalescence.

In Turin, at a series of hypnotic lectures and public experiments, a large proportion of those who attended were taken sick with headache, insomnia and other nervous ailments. A few of those who were of a hysterical temperament remained ill for a long time.

In the foregoing cases the hypnotizing was done with no evil intent, but there are hundreds of recorded instances where it was done with intent of evil.—Philadelphia Times.

It Worked to Perfection.

Two young women stood by the cashier's window the other day. One was an ambitious writer of verse whose effusions had been persistently rejected by story editors, and the other was a teacher out of a position and sorely in debt. They were engaged, just then, in commiserating each other, when suddenly a little brown dwarf with a hump and a mournfully patient face pushed her way up to the paying place. "My dear girl, now's your everlasting chance," whispered the poetess excitedly. "Get right up behind her, where she can't see you, and touch her hump. Then I'll follow suit. It's bound to bring us good luck; better than a rabbit's foot; never knew it to fail."

"What nonsense! I won't be such a goose!" demurred the teacher girl. "But go ahead yourself," and she stood aside for the other to get into a secure position; the whole charm depending of course upon doing it unknown to the humpbacked one.

It is only necessary to add that the experiment was entirely successful, and that the poetess went straight home and wrote "Loving and Losing," which she sold today for—but that is another story, I can't tell it.—New York Recorder.

Eating Rats.

We have tasted the rats that have run riot in isolated wheat ricks, and we can conscientiously aver that they are both both sweet and succulent. Their flesh is white as that of a sweetbread, and has unquestionably more flavor. We understand that field mice are still more delicate, and considering the simple and wholesome habits of their virtuous lives, we can well believe it. The "Englishman in Paris" speaks of a salmi served soon after the beginning of the siege of the commune, and the very memory of it seems to have made his mouth water. Yet the town mice scarcely gave the experiment a fair trial, for they had been snared on the bastions between the outer boulevards and the fortifications.—London Saturday Review.

"Being Europe." "Tourists do say funny things yet," said a young woman just home from Europe, "though I feared I shouldn't hear any of them. Two women were standing before a tapestry in a church, and as I approached one of them said to the other: 'Got your notebook, Hannah? Put down (consulting her catalogue) 'tapestry of St. Agnes'; then, studying the picture before her, she summed it up: 'Girl on a bench, sheep in the foreground,' and the two moved on without a second look."—New York Times.

Overjoyed. Travers—Strange what different emotions some occasions will bring out. I was down to the races, and in the excitement my tailor, who happened to be there, actually came up and threw his arms around my neck.

Dashaway—I suppose he had picked a winner, hadn't he?

Travers—No. But he saw that I had. Clothier and Furnisher.



Joseph S. Beach.

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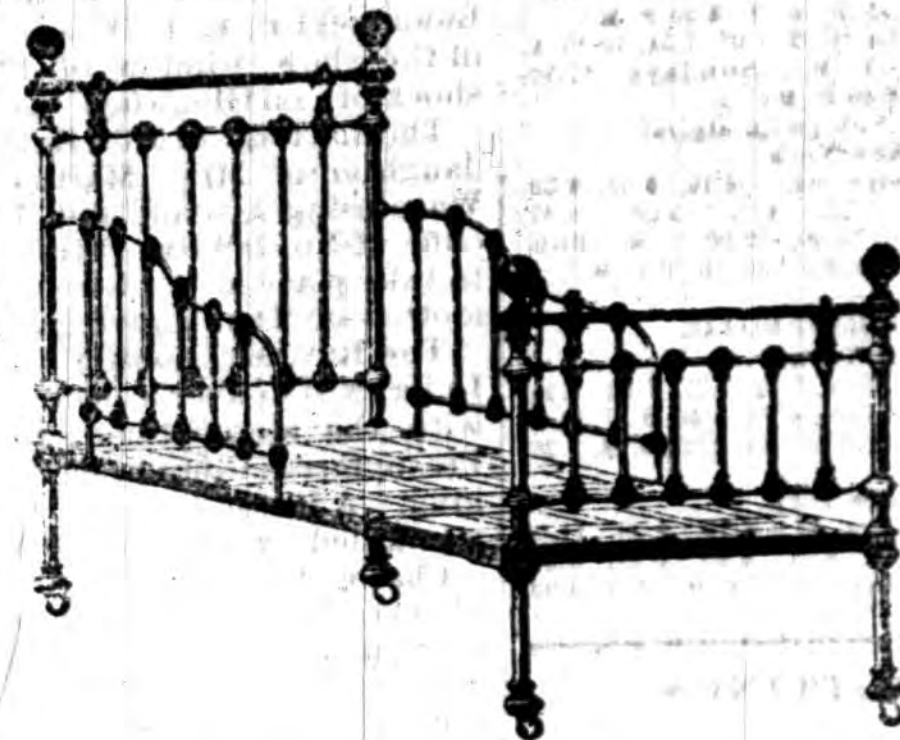
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